

observe by the Copy of the letters Inclos^d from Col^o Ephraim Blain, D. Yeates & Dearborn, that the returning Army are on their way for this place, which I now hourly expect, they have not only their own Teams Stores, Artillery & Baggage but that taken from the British also, which with the Teams that is now called, for the Transporting the Baggage &c^a to Philadelphia will consume all before them, the difficulties I had to Incounter as the Army went down (for Forage) was very great, as the consumption was equal to twenty Tons of Hay p day, and Corn in proportion, I have on the present occasion engaged all the Hay within fifteen Miles, but corn we have not, should I offer to Buy so great a quantity in our County it would raise the price fifty p C^t and distress the Inhabitants, I must therefore earnestly Intreat your assistance in ordering me a quantity of Corn as soon as possible for the Forageing of the whole Army down (and now up) I have received two hundred & fifty pounds (only in red money) you can Judge from this how my Credit stands having had at no one time since less then five hundred Head of Cattle to Forage, and many times three times that number, exclusive of the State Cattle, (and all the Teams of the army and its dependants) this together with the purchase of Casks, Baggs, nails and hiring of Teams for transporting the wheat to the Mills, has much difficulted me. I have wrote to the Gov^r & Council on the occasion, but the disolution (which must be kept as secret as possible) prevents their doing any thing at present, to you only Gentlemen I can apply with any prospect of success, the cattle not yet slaughtered I conceive ought to be sent here as fast as possible, where Butchers are ready to slaughter them, the Beef salted down in Vessels ought to be now packed into Cask, and well salted which I conceive can be best done at this place, as Bb^{ls} and salt can be had, and the Beef will be at the most convenient place for transportation, the great expence I had last spring in removing the Beef Pork and Flour from Snow Hill, Head of Chop-tank & induces me to this opinion, Col^o Dayton who commands the Jersey Brigade is now here (from York) and assures me that considerable quantitys of the Beef from the Eastern shore which was salted in Bulk (in Vessels) was Spoiled and thrown away, this Induces me to think something should be immediately done with the remainder, least it should be lost. I want one hundred and fifty Head of good Cattle immediately, and the remainder as fast as they can be sent, at least three or four thousand Bushels of Corn, the wheat I have no doubt is on its way, no more Beef Pork or flour need be sent to the Southward, will thank your Excellency & Honours to give such directions as to you in your Wisdom shall seem meet,

P. S. I want £500 Read money which I have engaged to the people of whome I have had Forage to pay their Taxes pray assist me to it if possible

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Red Book
No. 23
Letter 87